

## **Project Narrative**

This document will be uploaded to a Case Fact Sheet on the City's web site.

| Date:  Coordinator:  Project Name:   | Project No.:4<br>Case No. | 111-DR-2005<br>12/15/05 |
|--|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Project Location: 124 st. & Stee Blvd  |                           | 24                      |
| Property Details:  |                           |                         |
|  | Residential Commercial    | ☐ Industrial            |
| Current Zoning: NA   | Proposed Zoning: 4/4      |                         |
| Number of Buildings:   | Parcel Size:              |                         |
| Gross Floor Area/Total Units:  | Floor Area Ratio/Density: |                         |
| Parking Required:  | Parking Provided:         |                         |
| Setbacks: N S  | E W                       |                         |
| Description of Request: Mount 24 wireless communication functions and antenne & 451 to crusting APS pok (79') of associated agripment to be varified underground in City Row |                           |                         |

**Planning and Development Services Department** 

7447 E Indian School Road, Suite 105, Scottsdale, AZ 85251 • Phone: 480-312-7000 • Fax: 480-312-7088

## Cingular Wireless

Site Name: APS/124<sup>th</sup>
Site ID# P729A-01-P2
Site Type: Co-location
124<sup>th</sup> Street and Shea Boulevard
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

# SPECIAL USE PERMIT NARRATIVE REPORT

### **Applicant:**

Infranext, Inc. 1702 East Highland, Suite 406 Phoenix, AZ 85016 Phone: 602-522-2655 Fax: 602.522.2660

### Representative:

John Rooney
Berry & Damore, LLC
6750 East Camelback Rd., Suite 100
Scottsdale, AZ 85251
Phone: 480.682.3907
Fax: 480.385.2757

#### Submitted to:

City of Scottsdale 7447 East Indian School Road Scottsdale, AZ 85016 Phone: 312-4138 Contact: Kevin Sonoda





#### 1. PURPOSE OF APPLICATION

This statement supplements Infranext's application for a conditional use permit to accommodate the placement of four (4) new antennae on the existing APS utility pole located east of the intersection of 124th Street and Shea Boulevard, in Scottsdale. Infranext, by and through John Rooney of Berry & Damore, LLC, represents Cingular Wireless for the purpose of this application.

By this application, Cingular proposes to mount/co-locate four (4) additional antennae at a height of 45' on an existing 79' APS utility pole and install at its base a small "dog house" with the remainder of its equipment to be vaulted underground.

Cingular requires additional facilities in this area to extend its network coverage and address network capacity limitations. Less than peak network performance, as realized or perceived by the end user, results from a gap in coverage in this area. Also, in addition to limited geographic coverage, the area's growth has strained network capacity. These gaps and network burdens cause dropped or blocked calls, and results in less than optimal customer service.

Increased network usage is being driven by a convergence of increasing residential and commercial subscribers, increasing usage and increasing call length (on average). People now use their wireless phones in a variety of circumstances. In addition to their cars people now use wireless technology almost everywhere, including as part of their offices and in their homes. In fact, the May 13, 2005 edition of The Washington Post estimated approximately six percent (6%) of the population has "cut the cord" in that "[m]illions of college students, young professionals, and increasingly even families are foregoing their traditional phones at home and (have gone wireless)." Ironically, the very offices and homes in which these phones have become indispensable absorb and degrade the radio signals, thereby creating a need for additional base stations and additional cell sites to reach the end user. Additionally, new high speed data technologies require more bits of information to be transmitted within the same bandwidth and along the same network. Since most network systems were conceived and designed for mere voice traffic, more cell sites are required to support these high speed data services. Indeed, the *Wall Street Journal* (May 25, 2005) confirms the practical effect of lagging infrastructure by reporting that:

[r]oughly one of three cell phone calls has quality problems of some kind last year, according to an online survey by J.D. Power & Associates of 21,700 wireless customers. The result was essentially unchanged from the 2003 survey, the first year it was conducted. Besides dropped calls and an inability to connect, callers constantly experienced interference, echoes and voice distortion.





The same article points out that Cingular Wireless bought AT&T Wireless for \$41 billion, in part, to obtain additional network capacity. This application continues the integration and extension of the two networks for the purpose of improving coverage in the area, a process that will not be finished nationwide until June, 2006 (**Source**: *Wall Street Journal*, May 25, 2005).

Indeed, the problems in maintaining seamless coverage runs not only from increased usage but to the functionality of handset design. The smaller cell phones customers crave contain smaller batteries and internal antennae, which, together, reduce the effective range of their phones. Hence, the demand for ever-smaller cell phones increases the need for additional site installations. The pressures on the infrastructure increase, therefore, as the technology evolves.

In conclusion, Cingular Wireless is respectfully asking the City to permit the augmentation of this existing facility fill a gap in coverage where no other Cingular site exists or is in use. Consequently, Cingular Wireless would respectfully ask that the City consider and grant this CUP for the reason that it is not adverse to the best interests of the City and its residents.

#### **OTHER WIRELESS FACTS OF NOTE:**

- More than 182 million Americans are wireless subscribers; by mid-2004 there were 1.5 billion worldwide subscribers.
- 4 At the end of 2004, 40% of 15-19 year olds in the U.S. are wireless subscribers.
- ♦ More than \$174 billion in capital investment; 175,725 cell sites nationwide.
- 5 200,000 times each day, someone uses a wireless phone to call for help.
- The wireless industry and the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children® (NCMEC) have officially partnered to launch Wireless AMBER Alerts<sup>TM</sup>, an initiative that will help galvanize 182-million wireless subscribers in the search for an abducted child. Any wireless subscriber capable of receiving text messages, and whose wireless carrier participates in the Wireless AMBER Alerts Initiative, may opt in to receive alerts by registering at www.wirelessamberalerts.org or their wireless carrier's website. Subscribers may designate up to five geographic areas for which they would like to receive Wireless AMBER Alerts.
- Drivers participating in a study by the Automobile Association of America (AAA) listed talking on cell phones as the 8th most common distraction out of 9. Eating, drinking, talking to other passengers, adjusting radio controls, applying make-up, and reading were among the distractive behaviors cited as more prevalent while driving.





#### 2. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL.

As set forth above, Cingular proposes to install four (4) additional antennae on an existing APS utility pole and install an underground vault to house and shelter its equipment.

#### 3. RELATIONSHIP TO SURROUNDING PROPERTIES.

The site itself it located in the Scottsdale's existing right-of-way for Shea Boulevard. The surrounding properties are zoned in the City of Scottsdale as residential (mostly R-43). The property to the north, east and south is all zoned in the County as R-43. Notwithstanding the existence of said residentially zoned and used properties: (a) since this is an existing utility tower, which has been in place for sometime; and since Cingular is not in any way changing the facility's basic size or scope, this proposal will have a *de minimis* impact on the surrounding properties, if at all.

#### 4. LOCATION & ACCESSIBILITY.

At this point access is off of Shea Boulevard. Access to the facilities themselves is limited by the vaulting which provides security and, after construction, traffic about the site is solely for the purpose of periodic maintenance. Generally, this maintenance occurs around one time per month, depending on network reliability and both the manufacturer's and carrier's specifications for maintenance, excluding exigent circumstances which would require heightened attention.

#### 5. CONCLUSION.

As set forth above this property is one upon which Cingular desires to locate its operational equipment- antennae and the electronic equipment necessary to run their wireless system. Cingular's analysis is that their current coverage is less than optimal. Indeed, this application is driven in part by feedback from their customers as to poor coverage areas. Accordingly, Cingular would ask that the City, upon due consideration, grant the CUP. In granting the CUP the City would assist Cingular in meeting the needs of its customers for seamless, uninterrupted and clear wireless communications services and the CUP is not otherwise contrary to the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Scottsdale. In fact, although single family residences are adjacent to and in the immediate vicinity of the facility, given the longstanding existence of the current tower, it seems hard to imagine how merely adding additional antennae could be deleterious to the surrounding neighborhood, especially given the traffic along Shea Boulevard.





If staff should have any further questions, comments or suggestions, please feel free to call John Rooney at 480.682.3907 for assistance. Cingular thanks the City and its staff for their time and consideration.

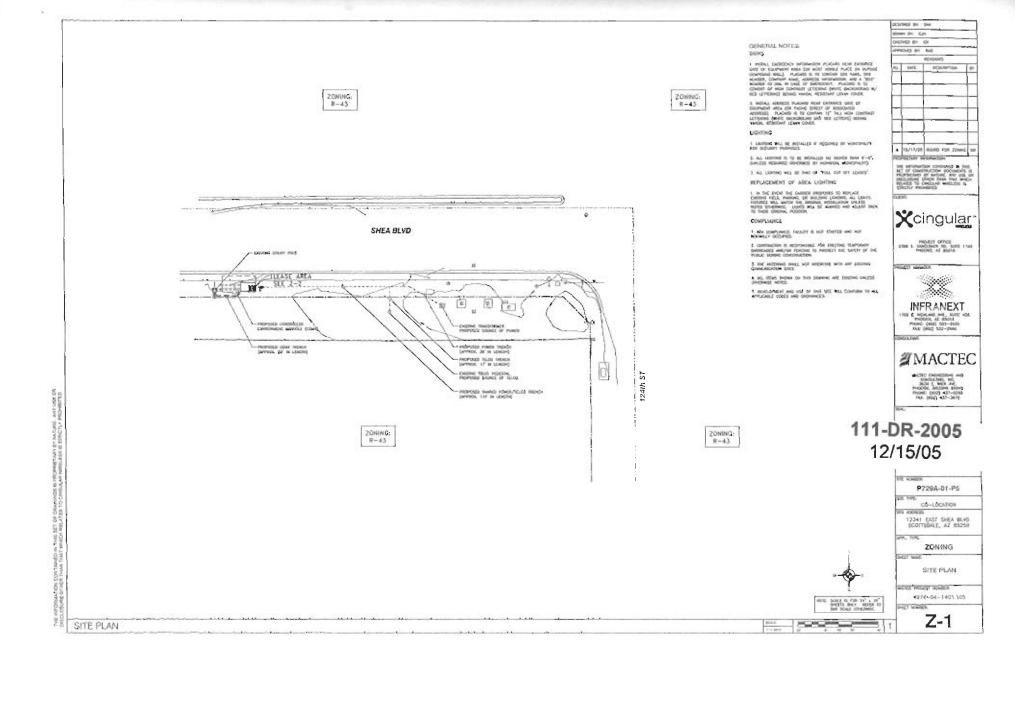
## **EXHIBITS**:

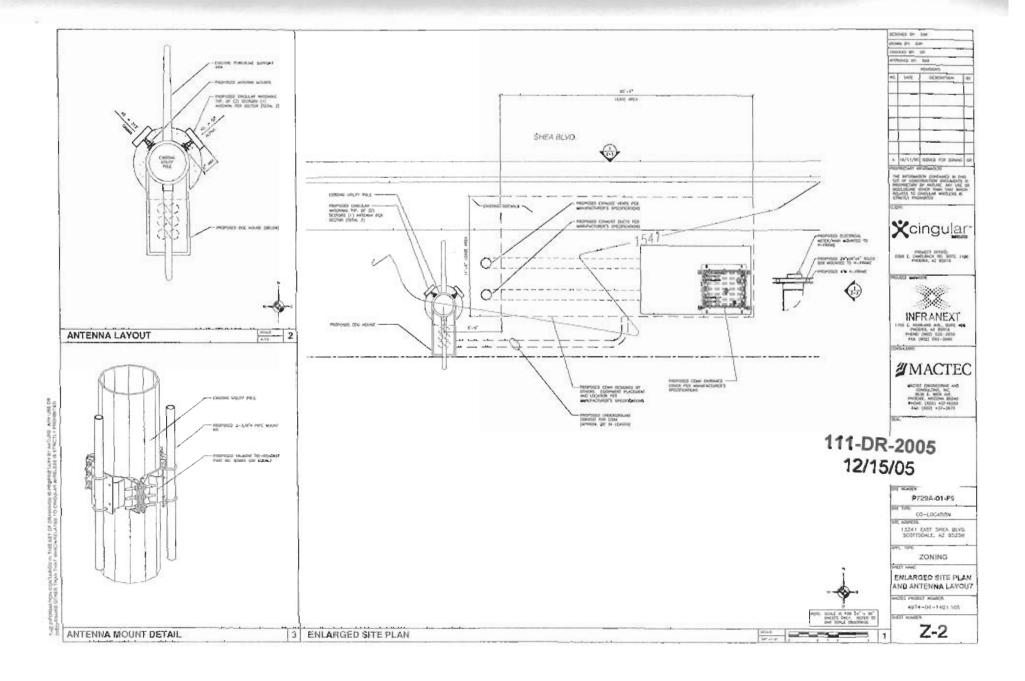
Exhibit A: Site Plans

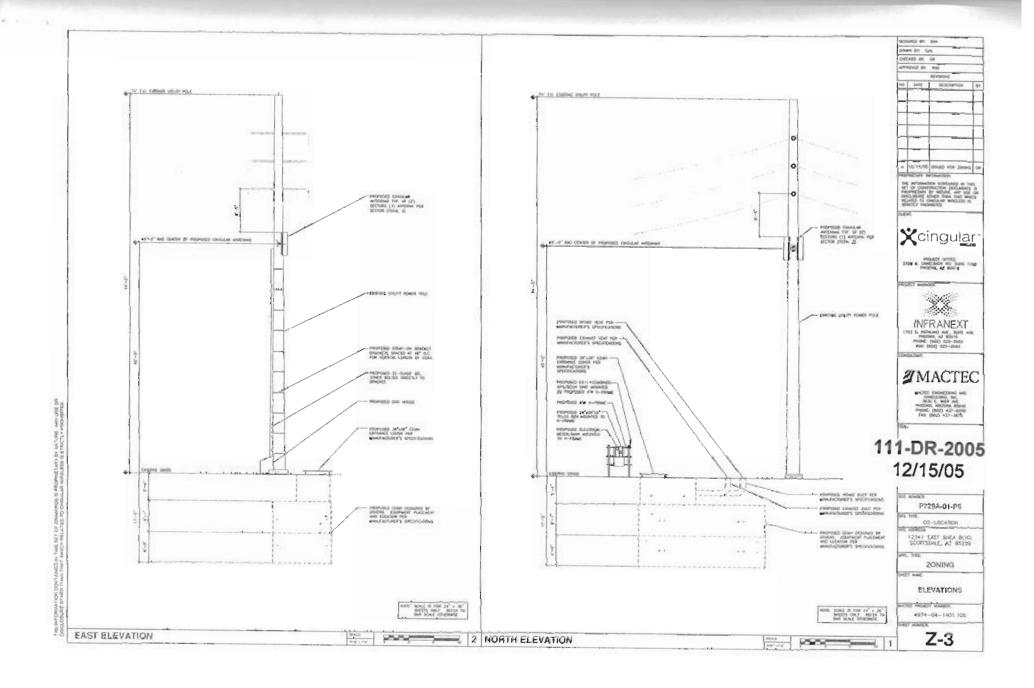
Exhibit B: Photographs.











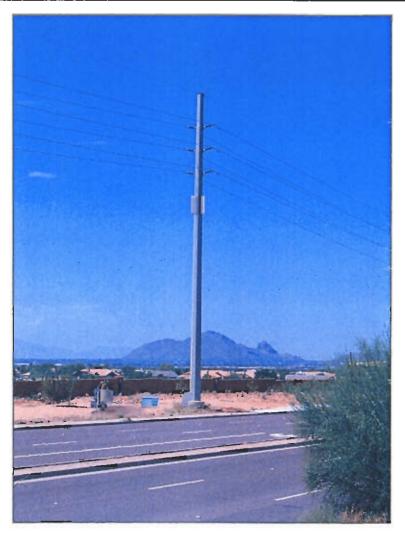


SHEA/124TH ST.

P729

12341 E. SHEA BLVD. SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA 85259





EXISTING



111-DR-2005 12/15/05

LOCATION - [MAP]



